

## Welcome home

copy from Welcome Home Facebook page

A friend of Welcome Home sent me this and it touched me in a profound way. I have never had children and I can so relate to this letter.

This is a letter written to a Pastor of a church after he asked all the mothers in the congregation to stand up and be recognized. And it goes like this...

Dear Pastor,

A few years ago I sat across from a woman who told me she doesn't go to church on Mother's Day because it is too hurtful. She had experienced numerous miscarriages and now she was divorced and was beyond child bearing years. It was like salt in a mostly healed wound to go to church on that day when Mothers are outwardly honored. I could relate to her feelings.

It began when you asked all mothers to stand. On my immediate right, my mother stood and on my immediate left, a family friend stood up. I was a woman that remained seated. I don't know how others saw me, but I felt dehumanized and gutted as a woman. It was like real women stood but empty shells sat still. I don't normally feel this way, and I never want another woman to feel this way in church again.

You see, I believe we can honor mothers without alienating others. I want woman to feel welcomed and appreciated in church and everywhere else they go. So here is what I ask...

Do away with standing. You mean well, but it's just awkward. Does the woman who had a miscarriage stand? Does a mom whose children passed away stand? By all means, please acknowledge the wide continuum of mothering. For example...

♥ To those who gave birth this year to their first child — we celebrate with you.

♥ To those who lost a child this year — we mourn with you.

♥ To those who are in the trenches with little ones every day and wear the badge of food stains — we appreciate you.

♥ To those who experience loss this year through miscarriage, failed adoptions, or running away — we grieve with you.

♥ To those who walk the hard path of infertility, fraught with pokes, prods, tears, and disappointment — we walk with you. Forgive us when we say foolish things. We don't mean to make this harder than it is.

♥ To those who are foster moms, mentor moms, and spiritual moms — we need you.

♥ To those who have warm and close relationships with your children — we celebrate you.

♥ To those who have disappointment, heartache, and distance with your children — we sit with you.

♥ To those who lost their mothers this year — we grieve with you.

♥ To those who experience abuse at the hands of your own mother — we acknowledge your experience.

♥ To those who lived through driving tests, medical tests, and overall testing of motherhood — we are better for having you in our midst.

♥ To those who will have emptier nests in the upcoming year — we grieve and rejoice with you.

♥ And to those who are pregnant with new life, both expected and surprising — we anticipate with you.

This Mother's Day, we walk with you. Mothering is not for the faint of heart and we have real warriors in our midst. We remember you. We must commend mothering for the ways it reflects the Image of God by bringing forth new life, nurturing those on her path, and living with the tension of providing both freedom and a safety net.